Chilli cultivation.

40. *Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the average quantity of chillies, for the past ten years that are being imported into Travancore;

(*b*) the average value of the same;

(*c*) whether the Government have investigated the possibilities of chilli cultivation on a commercial scale in the State; and

(*d*) whether the department of Agriculture has taken up the chilli cultivation?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) 97,246 Cwts. annually.

(*b*) Bh. Rs. 16,04,463.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether investigation has revealed that chilli cultivation could be successfully carried on in Travancore?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether this experiment was tried anywhere in Travancore?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: It was tried in Kottaram in South Travancore and also in all the rural centres in the Southern Division.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether the results of such investigations have been published for the information of the general public?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The results will be published shortly.

Manufacture of cement.

41. *Mr. K. M. Kesavan (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have finished their enquiries with regard to the facilities of manufacturing cement in this country?

Mr. C. Kumara Das (*Director of Industries*: No.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know, with reference to the answer furnished, what time will be required to finish the enquiry?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: It is expected to be finished shortly; I cannot say exactly what time will be required.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Will it be possible to approximately say the time within which the enquiry will be finished? Will it take a few months?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: It is expected that within a few months' time, the enquiry will be over, But as I said, we cannot be sure about the time.

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Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Quilon cum Kunnattur*): May I know how long is it since the enquiry has begun?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Preliminary enquiries were begun at the end of last year. But more intensive investigations were conducted only two months back.

Supply of electric power from Pallivasal.

42. ***Mr. James Fletcher:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they supply electric power for Quilon and Alwaye from Pallivasal;

(*b*) if so, what steps have been taken to dispose of the existing generating plants at Quilon and Alwaye, which have become unnecessary; and

(*c*) whether they propose to extend the Pallivasal Electric Supply to Trivandrum?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is not proposed to dispose of the plant at Quilon and Alwaye now, since they are to be kept as stand-by in the event of the demand for power exceeding the present capacity of the plant now installed at Pallivasal. The plant will however be available for disposal when the extension of the generating station at Pallivasal is carried out.

(*c*) Yes, in due course.

Defalcation in the Trivandrum Electric Supply Division.

43. ***Mr. James Fletcher:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount of loss incurred by the Government because of defalcations in accounts in the Trivandrum Electric Supply Division;

(*b*) what was the duration of months during which defalcation of accounts has been detected;

(*c*) who were the officers that should have checked the accounts and prevented the defalcation during that period of time; and

(*d*) what action has been taken against such officers?

Mr. K. Padmanabha Menon: (*a*) The amount of defalcation detected as a result of the audit of the accounts of the Trivandrum Electric Supply is Rs. 7,452-7-4.

(*b*) The defalcation is spread over the period 1111 M. E. to Meenom 1114 M. E.

(*c*) The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division and the Superintendent, Trivandrum Electric Supply, who were in office from time to time during the period.

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